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Subject: White

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DEP investigating white substance seen on the Elk River

Department of Environmental Protection workers are investigating reports of a white substance that was seen floating on the surface of the Elk River early Thursday morning.

DEP spokesman Tom Aluise said the department learned of the substance from Kanawha County workers.

Investigators believe the substance is coming from a source that is upstream from both Freedom Industries, the chemical storage facility at the heart of the Jan. 9 chemical spill that contaminated the water supply for 300,000 West Virginians, and Smith Concrete, which is located along Pennsylvania Avenue just north of Freedom's Barlow Drive facility.

"Early indications are, it appears to be coming from upstream (of Freedom Industries)," Aluise

said.

The DEP has workers on the river looking for the source, said DEP Communications Director Kelley Gillenwater, though they are not sure how far up the Elk River the substance originated. Workers noticed it collecting outside of the booms that are still placed around Freedom's site.

Aluise says West Virginia American Water was notified of the substance several hours ago.

Check back at www.charlestondaily.com later for more information as it becomes available.

- See more at: <http://www.charlestondaily.com/article/20140327/DM01/140329512#sthash.CJqAj5Zj.dpuf>